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10/065,264	09/30/2002	Masahide Tanaka	106121.03	5673

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EXAMINER

HERNANDEZ, NELSON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,264

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/576,221.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges the amended claims filed on November 14, 2006. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 5, line 18 – page 6, line 21, filed November 14, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 9 and 10 under 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art.
3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6 and 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis, US Patent 6,721,001 B1 in view of Nambudiri, US Patent 6,640,214 B1.**

Regarding claim 1, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system (See fig. 1) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and causes transmission of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal; Berstis inherently teaches that the digital image storage includes a storage medium that stores the taken out digital images. (A storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data) (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the

digital image storage includes a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal.

However, the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Nambudiri.

Nambudiri teaches a cradle (see fig. 21) located apart from a host computer (Fig. 21: 1646) comprising a terminal detection module (Fig. 22: 1704) for detecting the connection of a portable terminal (Fig. 21: 1610), wherein when said terminal detection module detects the connection of said portable terminal, a microprocessor (Fig. 21: 1632) of said cradle controls a synchronization module (Fig. 21: 1706) to automatically synchronize data between the portable terminal and said host computer (Col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Although the portable terminal in Nambudiri is not a digital camera, one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious to apply the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station taught by Nambudiri to have the digital image storage in Berstis detecting a receipt signal from the docking station indicating that the camera is connected to said docking station. The motivation to do so would have been to alleviate the need to automatically synchronize the image data of

the camera with the image data of the computer upon connecting the camera to the docking station.

Regarding claim 2, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Nambudiri as applied to claim 1 teaches that the controller causes the taking out of all the digital images in the memory subsequent to receipt of the signal (See Berstis, col. 4, lines 53-63).

Regarding claim 4, Berstis discloses that the docking station is designed to charge a battery of the digital camera when the digital camera is coupled with the docking station (Col. 3, lines 9-17; see also Nambudiri, col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Regarding claim 5, Berstis discloses that the signal is caused by the placing of the digital camera on the docking station (Col. 3, lines 17-46; col. 4, line 50 – col. 5, line 14; col. 6, line 63 – col. 7, line 60; see also Nambudiri, col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Regarding claim 6, Berstis discloses a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), digital images in the memory being transmitted from the memory to the digital image storage by way of a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) capable of being coupled with the digital camera, the digital image storage being located apart from the docking station (see fig. 1), the digital camera comprising: a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal; the digital image storage comprises a memory (a memory is inherent in a

Art Unit: 2622

personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the transmitted digital images (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Nambudiri.

Nambudiri teaches a cradle (see fig. 21) located apart from a host computer (Fig. 21: 1646) comprising a terminal detection module (Fig. 22: 1704) for detecting the connection of a portable terminal (Fig. 21: 1610), wherein when said terminal detection module detects the connection of said portable terminal, a microprocessor (Fig. 21: 1632) of said cradle controls a synchronization module (Fig. 21: 1706) to automatically synchronize data between the portable terminal and said host computer (Col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Although the portable terminal in Nambudiri is not a digital camera, one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious to apply the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a

terminal has been connected to said docking station taught by Nambudiri to have the digital image storage in Berstis having a controller to detect a receipt signal from the docking station indicating that the camera is connected to said docking station and to causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal. The motivation to do so would have been to alleviate the need to automatically synchronize the image data of the camera with the image data of the computer upon connecting the camera to the docking station.

Regarding claim 7, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Nambudiri as applied to claim 6 teaches that the controller causes the taking-out of all the digital images in the memory of the digital camera subsequent to receipt of the signal (See Berstis, col. 4, lines 53-63; see also Nambudiri, col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Regarding claim 9, Berstis discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and that executes a program for taking out the digital images from the memory of the digital camera, and the digital image storage comprises a storage medium (a storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the

taken out digital images, the program being automatically started subsequent to detection of the signal (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by an controller in the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Nambudiri.

Nambudiri teaches a cradle (see fig. 21) located apart from a host computer (Fig. 21: 1646) comprising a terminal detection module (Fig. 22: 1704) for detecting the connection of a portable terminal (Fig. 21: 1610), wherein when said terminal detection module detects the connection of said portable terminal, a microprocessor (Fig. 21: 1632) of said cradle controls a synchronization module (Fig. 21: 1706) to automatically synchronize data between the portable terminal and said host computer (Col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Although the portable terminal in Nambudiri is not a digital camera, one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious to apply the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a

Art Unit: 2622

terminal has been connected to said docking station taught by Nambudiri to have the digital image storage in Berstis having a controller to detect a receipt signal from the docking station indicating that the camera is connected to said docking station and to causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal. The motivation to do so would have been to alleviate the need to automatically synchronize the image data of the camera with the image data of the computer upon connecting the camera to the docking station.

Regarding claim 10, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system (Fig. 1) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects change of status of the docking station (detects connection between camera and docking station) and that causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to the detection of the change in status, and the digital image storage comprises a storage medium (a storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the taken out digital images.

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by an controller in the digital camera but does not explicitly

Art Unit: 2622

disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Nambudiri. Nambudiri teaches a cradle (see fig. 21) located apart from a host computer (Fig. 21: 1646) comprising a terminal detection module (Fig. 22: 1704) for detecting the connection of a portable terminal (Fig. 21: 1610), wherein when said terminal detection module detects the connection of said portable terminal, a microprocessor (Fig. 21: 1632) of said cradle controls a synchronization module (Fig. 21: 1706) to automatically synchronize data between the portable terminal and said host computer (Col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Although the portable terminal in Nambudiri is not a digital camera, one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious to apply the concept of having a system wherein when a docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station taught by Nambudiri to have the digital image storage in Berstis having a controller to detect a receipt signal from the docking station indicating that the camera is connected to said docking station and to causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital

Art Unit: 2622

image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal. The motivation to do so would have been to alleviate the need to automatically synchronize the image data of the camera with the image data of the computer upon connecting the camera to the docking station.

Regarding claims 11-13, Berstis discloses that the docking station has a shape to fit a bottom of the digital camera (See fig. 1; col. 2, lines 15-39).

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis, US Patent 6,721,001 B1 in view of Nambudiri, US Patent 6,640,214 B1 and further in view of Davison, US Patent 6,516,099 B1.

Regarding claim 3, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Nambudiri fails to teach that the controller causes the taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera.

However, transferring images from a digital camera to an external device in the same order that said images were captured is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Davison wherein a camera (Fig. 1: 12) takes a plurality of images and a computer (Fig. 1: 12) downloads said images in the same order said images were taken in order to display the images in a display (Fig. 1: 18) in the same order the images were taken (Col. 7, lines 34-60). Taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera is advantageous because it would help to organize a group of images taken at different points of view of an object to be composed into a single image; it would also help an user organizing the

images when having a large amount of images stored in the digital camera or the digital image storage and to properly.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Nambudiri and further in view of Davison as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis and Nambudiri by taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera. The motivation to do so would have been to help to organize a group of images taken at different points of view of an object to be composed into a single image as suggested by Davison (Col. 2, lines 1-37); also would help an user organizing the images when having a large amount of images stored in the digital camera or the digital image storage and to properly.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chatani, JP 8-69684 A in view of Nambudiri, US Patent 6,640,214 B1.

Regarding claim 8, Chatani discloses a storage medium (Fig. 1) that stores a computer program that is executable by a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) of a digital image storage for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) having a memory, digital images in the memory being transmitted from the memory to the digital image storage by way of a docking station (Fig. 1: 6) capable of being coupled with the digital camera, the computer program comprising instructions to cause the controller to perform the steps of: detecting receipt of a signal from the docking station (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶ 0029); causing the transmission of the digital images from

the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the receipt of the signal (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029); and storing the transmitted digital images in a memory (magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2)) of the digital image storage (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029).

Chatani does not explicitly disclose the digital image storage located apart from the docking station and that the storage medium detects a receipt signal from the docking station.

However, the concept of having a system wherein a docking station is located apart from a processing device, and wherein when said docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Nambudiri. Nambudiri teaches a cradle (see fig. 21) located apart from a host computer (Fig. 21: 1646) comprising a terminal detection module (Fig. 22: 1704) for detecting the connection of a portable terminal (Fig. 21: 1610), wherein when said terminal detection module detects the connection of said portable terminal, a microprocessor (Fig. 21: 1632) of said cradle controls a synchronization module (Fig. 21: 1706) to automatically synchronize data between the portable terminal and said host computer (Col. 17, line 55 – col. 19, line 53).

Although the portable terminal in Nambudiri is not a digital camera, one of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious to apply the concept of having a system wherein a docking station located apart from a processing device, and wherein when

Art Unit: 2622

said docking station detects the presence or connection of another device, said docking station sends a receipt signal to said processing device to inform that a terminal has been connected to said docking station taught by Nambudiri to have the digital image storage in Chatani located apart from the docking station and the storage medium detecting a receipt signal from the docking station. The motivation to do so would have been to alleviate the need to use a cable to connect the camera to the host, as is done with other digital still cameras and which may require restarting the local host to recognize the newly connected camera, this would also improve the operability and reduce the time needed to connect a camera to a host and to synchronize the image data of the camera with the image data of the computer.

Conclusion

8. Because new grounds for rejections have been introduced to unamended **claims 1, 9 and 10**, this Office Action will be **Non-Final**.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2622

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

NDHH
February 2, 2007


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER